THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Agreement between the Governments of India and the United States regarding the surrender of persons to international tribunals was signed on December 26, 2002 in New Delhi. The two Governments have agreed not to surrender or transfer each other's citizens to an international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties, and without the express consent of the other Government.

(b) India believes in the primacy of national judicial processes, and has for this reason, not signed for example, the Statutes relating to the International Criminal Court. Entering into this Agreement with the United States furthers the Government's objective of retaining the primacy of national judicial processes for its citizens.

(c) The Government can not take cognizance of the views of private international organisations in these matters.

Participation by MEA Bureaucrats in National Day Reception

991. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the contents of the news-item captioned, "Don'ts from MEA on diplomatic dos" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 15th January, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that too many bureaucrats have attended National Day receptions at foreign missions; and

(c) if so, what are Government's latest directives in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not received such reports.

(c) Does not arise.